

## *No. 30 – Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Region*

### Region Acceptance Process Summary

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#### **General Description of Region**

The Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region is located along the Pacific Ocean in the Central Coast Funding Area between the San Francisco Bay and the greater Los Angeles metropolitan areas. This Region's boundary is contiguous with the Santa Barbara County lines.

The Santa Barbara County Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) is made up of numerous regional agencies including, Santa Barbara County, cities within the County, water districts, sanitary districts, community services districts, and joint powers agencies. Currently, RWMG membership is open to governmental organizations, stakeholders, and any concerned groups that wish to participate; however, these entities do not have any voting rights. The Santa Barbara RWMG is developing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would update the governance structure for the Santa Barbara IRWM Region. Under the new MOU, a Steering Committee would be created from a core group of members that are currently part of the Cooperating Partners. Any signatory of the new MOU may participate in the Steering Committee. Voting would be by a simple majority of all members participating in a Steering Committee meeting, and by consensus whenever possible. The tentative schedule for approval of the MOU is January 2010.

The Santa Barbara RWMG has shown that they actively pursue outreach and coordination activities. For example, the RWMG keeps in contact with San Luis Obispo and Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWM Regions to address shared water quality and water supply issues in the Santa Maria and Rincon Creek Watersheds, respectively. The RWMG also participates in the Central Coast Funding Area regional meetings and has assisted Disadvantaged Communities by providing a portion of the administrative costs for Casmalia and Cuyama communities to participate in the IRWM planning process.

#### **Interview Conclusions- Approved**

No changes to the Santa Barbara County IRWM Region boundaries are suggested by DWR.

During the RAP interview DWR requested that the Santa Barbara RWMG provide a letter stating their of cooperation with the San Luis Obispo County and the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWM Regions, to confirm an understanding of collaborative water management of shared watersheds, particularly the Santa Maria watershed.

DWR received the requested letter of cooperation, dated June 26, 2009, which also addresses the area where the Santa Barbara IRWM Region boundary does not include the entire Cuyama and Rincon Creek watersheds.